

**Legislative Testimony Appropriations Committee Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget  
Adjustments HB 5037 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,  
2023**

February 21, 2022

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Fernanda Marchi. I have been practicing dentistry, and more specifically, orthodontics, in Connecticut for 22 years.

Access to dental care in CT should be a priority for the administration, and increasing the adult dental reimbursement rates for Medicaid, could increase the number of providers available for a large population of our state, who at this time, do not have many options. While the cost of running a dental office has significantly increased, even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, adult dental rates for Medicaid have remained the same since 2008. To retain a robust dental care safety net, dental Medicaid rates need to be significantly increased. It is impossible to cover the dental office overhead with the current reimbursement rates.

Without adequate access to dental care through the Medicaid program, many Connecticut citizens will seek emergency care for oral conditions in local hospitals. It is far more cost effective, and better for the patient, to treat those issues before they become an emergency.

I am writing regarding the Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments for the Department of Social Services and the proposed increase to adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Without adequate access to dental care through the Medicaid program, many Connecticut citizens will seek emergency care for oral conditions in local hospitals. It is far more cost effective, and better for the patient, to treat those issues before they become an emergency.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,



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